

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) client and a PPP server, wherein the PPP server is located on a wireless communication device, the method comprising:

generating a negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the negative acknowledgement message includes deliberately arbitrary supplemental IPCP information and does not include an IP address option to extend the protocol synchronization period; and

generating an acknowledgement message at the PPP server in response to ~~[[an]] the~~ IPCP configuration request from the PPP client if the PPP server has received all required parameters to complete the protocol synchronization period.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

generating a new negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to a repeated IPCP configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the new negative acknowledgement message includes different supplemental IPCP information from a previous negative acknowledgement message and does not include an IP address option.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

generating a new negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to a repeated IPCP configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the new negative acknowledgement message includes the same supplemental IPCP information as a previous negative acknowledgement message and does not include an IP address option.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the arbitrary supplemental IPCP information is an arbitrary Domain Naming System (DNS) address.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the arbitrary supplemental IPCP information is an arbitrary Windows Internet Naming Service (WINS) address.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) client and a PPP server, wherein the PPP server is located on a wireless communication device, the apparatus comprising:

at least one memory element; and

at least one processing element configured to execute a set of computer-implemented instructions stored in the at least one memory element, the set of computer-implemented instructions for:

generating a negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the negative acknowledgement message includes deliberately arbitrary supplemental IPCP information and does not include an IP address option to extend the protocol synchronization period; and

generating an acknowledgement message at the PPP server in response to ~~[[an]] the~~ IPCP configuration request from the PPP client if the PPP server has received all required parameters to complete the protocol synchronization period.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the at least one processing element is located in ~~the same an~~ electronic device that hosts the PPP client.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6, wherein the at least one processing element is located in an electronic device that does not host the PPP client.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) client and a PPP server, wherein the PPP server is located on a wireless communication device, the apparatus comprising:

means for generating a negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) configuration request from the

PPP client, wherein the negative acknowledgement message includes deliberately arbitrary supplemental IPCP information and does not include an IP address option to extend the protocol synchronization period; and

means for generating an acknowledgement message at the PPP server in response to [[an]] the IPCP configuration request from the PPP client if the PPP server has received all required parameters to complete the protocol synchronization period.

10. (Original) A computer-implemented method for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point (PPP) client and a PPP server, comprising:

engaging the PPP client in an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) negotiation; and

triggering the PPP client to generate configuration request messages with that include deliberately arbitrary supplemental IPCP ~~addresses~~ information and that do not include an IP address option to extend the protocol synchronization period.